
Subject:

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan-please protect wildlife

From: Marc Sugars [mailto:m_sugars@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 4:00 PM**To:** commentletters**Subject:** Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan-please protect wildlife

Felicia Marcus, Chair and Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Dear Ms. Marcus,

I am writing to state my belief that the State Water Board should take heed of its own analysis that at least 60% of unimpaired flow should remain on San Joaquin River and its tributaries in order to protect wildlife. If the Board's own study indicated this need in order to protect the variety of wildlife that depend on the river system, then to me, to not follow it basically means that the health of the ecosystem does not receive the same weight in decisions by the State Water Board about how the Bay Delta is managed. There will always be competing interests for this water amongst farmers, municipal jurisdictions, and the ecosystem of the watershed. And, each of these interests should be respected because none of them are going away. But, it needs to be a respect that is balanced, and for most of recent history, the ecosystem has been receiving the short end of this respect. The technology to meet farming needs and municipal water needs by using more efficient, less water-intensive ways has only been increasing as new methods build upon old methods and research demonstrates just what is possible. Also, the possibility of switching to high value crops that require less water than some of the current crops grown should be a key consideration. While decisions related to the use of these technologies and methods involve many stakeholders, the State Water Board can be an advocate of promotion and funding of these technologies and methods so that they can be used comprehensively throughout the state. In addition, education needs to be promoted more broadly so that the respect for water can be more easily grasped by others.

A truly sustainable plan for the Bay Delta would factor in this growing need for water education and these new technologies and methods so that farmers and municipalities can meet their goals in a way that demonstrates respect for water and the vulnerable plant and animal species that depend on it. These species depend on us humans to take actions that incorporate a reverence for their need to not only survive but to thrive. I truly believe this can be done but it is going to involve a change in not only determining what our true needs are but also how we are going to meet those needs in the context of a more evolved consciousness of our responsibilities as stewards of our surroundings. Decisions on the management of the Bay Area Delta need to take into account not only the need to protect the ecosystem for the sake of the wildlife but, with the realization that protection of the ecosystem and wise water use will increase humanity's chances of thriving as well. The State Water Board can lead this charge by promoting these ideas in the upcoming Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Thank you for your time,

Marc Sugars